

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

The improvement of late years in the Agriculture of the region surrounding New York. The spirit extending over the Union, which is now annually drawing millions of dollars' worth of improved implements, trees, plants, &c. from this point. The celebrated Nursery of Parsons & Co.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 30.

In nothing has New York and its vicinity improved more rapidly of late years than in the system of cultivating fruits, flowers, vegetables, and ornamental trees, and in the quality of such productions of the soil as now characterize this region. Twenty years ago the science of horticulture was as much neglected here as at present by the great mass of the agriculturists of our own immediate neighborhood, who, I am happy to be able to write from my own knowledge, are at last awakening to the importance of bringing to their aid the wonderful advantages in the prosecution of their business which science has of late years placed within the reach of all farmers. As food as I am tracing out step by step the history of progressing improvements in other industrial arts, none of them so interesting as that of agriculture, the basis of our country's past unequalled progress, and the main hope of her future.

We may thank a free and cheap press and the spirit of "go-ahead-ism" which marks every thing in and about the Empire State for the unprecedented improvement of her agriculture, which is more rapidly appreciated in this immediate vicinity, where all farms are literally gardens or nurseries, than in the interior, wherein the farmer is but the competitor with the agriculturists of the rest of the Union in the production of staple articles. The city of New York is not only the point from which the country at large draws their chief supplies of imported goods and domestic manufactures, (sold from hence,) but annually millions of dollars' worth of the improved agricultural implements, improved fruit trees, seeds, bulbs, roots, &c. which are effecting so great and rapid changes from Maine to Mexico in the results of agricultural labor. This fact will be impressed on the mind of the observing man who takes the trouble to note what he sees around the city's docks, where one will always find an undue proportion of farming tools, bundles of trees, &c. in course of shipment for distant points. Indeed, the business of supplying our country's wants in immediate connexion with agricultural improvement has come to be of commanding interest and importance to the city, giving employment to tens of thousands of hands, and to hundreds of the most cultivated and intelligent minds of writers, inventors, scientific investigators, &c. The establishment of A. B. ALLEN & Co. for the manufacture of agricultural implements, in which some four hundred and fifty men find constant employment, is probably the largest and most complete in the world, turning out as it does, at far cheaper rates, a larger variety and greater quantity of such tools than are manufactured at any similar establishment in Europe. On a recent visit to the shops of this house I was struck with the fact that nine-tenths of their mechanics were discharging the duties literally of engineers; that is, each seemed to be superintending the labor of some combination of machinery which was doing work in the course of a day that, if now done as formerly by hand, would occupy from ten to a hundred men. I can in no more effective manner explain the secret of the great reduction in the prices as well as improvement in the quality of these now prime necessities of life, than by calling the reader's attention to the fact that well-nigh all the boring, mortising, tenoning, planing, sawing, &c. done in these works are effected not by straining human sinews, but by means of never-failing implements conceived in ingenious brains. The Allen's sold fifteen thousand ploughs last year, almost all of them being constructed on their own premises, while their sales of a thousand other implements and farming accessories were by way of proportion. I mention these circumstances here only by way of illustrating the fact that from Maine to Texas our farmers within the last few years are rapidly coming to appreciate the better economy of scientific agriculture. The increasing demands on the nurserymen whose business centres in this vicinity also tell well for the spirit of agricultural improvement now abroad in the land. There are a large number of such establishments within an hour's ride or sail of the city, and they are always being visited by strangers from the interior who are competent to understand the benefits which all derive from improved agricultural economy.

I have recently visited the nursery of the Brothers PARSONS, at Flushing, and propose to discourse your readers to-day on what I saw there. It is the largest and most complete establishment of the kind on the American continent, which alone is sufficient to invest it with great interest. It is worthy of remark, too, that the ground on which it stands has been in possession of the family for quite two centuries; a rare occurrence, indeed, in this land with laws against entailments. The proprietors, as were their ancestors, are members of the estimable society of Friends, and point with no little satisfaction to a venerable and beautiful oak of huge dimensions yet sheltering their threshold, under the spreading branches of which the celebrated George Fox dispensed the word of life to a field meeting in 1662. They are gentlemen who after passing through college went to Europe in pursuit of information in this business—the noblest in the world—which they had determined to follow. Their premises tell what the combined advantages of appropriate and thorough preliminary education, Quaker habits, and subsequent study in the more advanced schools of European agriculture can effect; for there is nothing like them elsewhere in this country. They devote some sixty-five acres wholly to their nursery, ransacking all four continents, as it were, to obtain the foundation for the new and improved trees and plants, with which, I may write, they are literally stocking the United States. Africa, Oregon, China, the Himalayan mountains, the South Sea Islands, Norway, Borneo, and indeed all places and countries with which England or the United States have intercourse, appear to have furnished something rare, valuable, or beautiful to add to the completeness of their stock; and they are evidently in the habit of closely and thoroughly studying the character of every new tree, shrub, or plant which they obtain from abroad or easy to domesticate from our own much-neglected forests. The vast critical experience and information they have thus acquired renders their advice to horticultural improvers dealing with them of great value to the latter in whatever section of the Union they may be located, for they know thoroughly the attributes, character, and habits of every article they sell—what fruits will do well north, and what south—which fruits will grow best near the sea-shore, and which will come from the most desirable ornaments to the gentleman's lawn in the far West. I noticed that their plants and trees directly from abroad appeared to thrive less satisfactorily than such of the same kind as they had themselves succeeded in propagating from foreign stocks, and was informed by them that notwithstanding the great care which they and their European agents had always devoted to ensuring their arrival out in good condition, three-fourths of their importations failed to live after the voyage.

I may mention, with profit to thousands of your readers, that these gentlemen break up their land always a foot deep, their subsequent ploughing with a single horse being to the depth of eight inches. They also manure highly, their whole farm being as "light," from thorough working and manuring, as a well-cultivated vegetable garden should be. That is doubtless the secret of the rapid growth of every thing in their hands. Their land is divided into rows, plots, rows, and sections of rows; the names of the trees, plants, &c. in each being duly recorded in a book for reference. I found on their premises 26 varieties of summer apples, 40 of autumn, 28 of winter, and 6 of apples for preserving and ornament; 28 varieties of summer pears, 28 of autumn, and 20 varieties of the winter pear; 26 varieties of the apple, 26 of the bigarreau cherry, 26 of the morello, and 6 ornamental varieties; 80 varieties of the plum; 64 varieties of freestone peaches; 16 of clingstone, and two kinds of ornamental peach trees; 14 kinds of nectarines; 18 varieties of apricots, 3 of almonds, 7 of the quince, 54 of foreign and 9 of native grapes, 11 varieties of walnuts and filberts, 8 of mulberries and medlars, 20 of figs; 10 varieties of the red gooseberry; 12 kinds of raspberries, 5 of currants, and 18 of strawberries. So much for their immense stock of fruit trees. In or-

amental trees they are far before any other nursery in America, having early devoted much attention to this usually much-neglected branch of their business. Thus, they have 220 varieties of deciduous trees, 31 of evergreen trees, 135 of deciduous shrubs, and 33 of evergreen shrubs. They also show 35 varieties of ornamental vines and creepers, 11 of twining honeysuckles, 9 of upright honeysuckles, 11 plants for hedges, and 12 penzance; and they have 1,400 varieties of exotic plants, 20 of carnations, 6 of pinks, 6 of rare pinks, with a large assortment of heliotropes, verbena, and geraniums, for bedding, climbing, &c.

I spent the day in walking through this extensive collection, wherein I found far more worthy of particular notice than I can even name here. Among their wonders is the Douglas pine, a native of California, which grows to the height of two hundred feet. They obtained it from England recently, and have only been able to save about twenty out of each one hundred of the specimens sent to them. These look thrifty and promising. They have fairly succeeded in domesticating or naturalizing the cedar deodar, a native of the Himalaya mountains, which is a beautiful evergreen; indeed somewhat resembling the balsam fir, though stiffer, handsomer, and richer. They have reared beautiful specimens of the golden arbutus, a variety from China, the leaves of which stand out from a centre like those of a book set open half open; and also of the filiformis, a new arbutus of peculiar leaf. Their specimens of the Cunninghamia sinensis, a delicate and graceful Chinese variety of the coniferous tribe, struck me as being peculiarly beautiful. Last year they imported four hundred specimens of the Irish yew, of which they have saved but one-fifth; the rest failing to vegetate, notwithstanding the evident solicitude with which these gentlemen have attended to them. The intensity of our summer heat proves too great for them. Though exceedingly picturesque, they grow very slowly, not more than two inches a year until attaining the height of ten feet. Their importations of the English yew have proved more fortunate, the tree being far more hardy. They have a (to me) new pine, called the Paris insignis, a graceful tree, which maintains a beautiful green throughout the year, never varying in color. I was struck with a new variety of pine from the island of Borneo, termed the pinus excelsior, as rare in its formations as beautiful; also, with their thrifty specimens of the palauia, from Japan, the leaves of which on trees to two years growth are quite two feet in diameter. It grows to be nine feet high in a single season, leading them only from the top. By the end of the third season this remarkable tree is leaved from the very ground to its top, forming a magnificent shade in half the time such a blessing over one's threshold is to be obtained from any other tree. It buds the season before it blooms, the flower being very fragrant and blue, like the fox-glove, hanging in heavy clusters a foot long. Nothing can be more interesting in its way than the peculiar manner in which Nature provides for the protection of the seed of this wonderful tree during the winter intervening between its budding and blooming; placing around it an additional coat or covering, which more nearly resembles buckskin than eught else I know of. One of these trees at three years old stands sixteen feet high, and has a girth around the extremities of the leaves of quite thirty-six feet, the sun failing to penetrate it any where. The Messrs. Parsons have conferred a great benefit on their country in the introduction and successful naturalization of this valuable stranger alone; for it thrives among us as well as any of our native forest trees.

Their specimens of the weeping or Japan sophora, a member of the locust tribe, with a head (of foliage) ten feet in diameter and foliage reaching nearly to the ground, are as beautiful as rare. They have had entire success in naturalizing the Chinese magnolia, which has grown under their hands to the height of sixteen feet, "leafing" from the ground, and throwing its foliage from top to bottom over a circle with a diameter of sixteen feet. This tree, like the Japanese palauia, buds the season before blooming. It puts forth a mass of bloom before the leaves appear in the spring, which gives the whole tree the appearance of an immense bouquet. They also cultivate many other varieties of native and foreign magnolias, being very successful with all their specimens of this rich and beautiful tree. To propagate them, as well as hundreds of other trees, (principally obtained from abroad,) they train the outer branches and twigs to the ground, and then bruise and bury them. As soon as they shoot out roots from the wounds thus purposely made, they are separated from the parent stock, and, after remaining undisturbed for a season to gain strength, they are transplanted into the rows, from which they are sold at any time within two or three years.

Among the most charming sights on their premises is a screen or hedge of the common arbutus which stands twelve feet in height, and though not more than eighteen inches thick, (or, through,) is impervious to the sight. It was the growth of but nine years from the seed. One who has never seen this particular specimen or something like it can have no idea of the capacity of the plant to minister to a cultivated taste for ornamental shrubbery.

Among their capital arrangements, I noticed an acre devoted to the purpose of a specimen ground for shrubbery, wherein there was but a single plant of each variety they rear; and another wherein one sees in full bloom, bearing, or leaf, a specimen of each variety of fruit trees they offer for sale. Among the peculiarities of their establishment is an orchard of pears on quince stocks, covering four acres and standing ten feet apart only; the pear tree grafted being a dwarf, though its bearing qualities greatly increased. From some of these trees they gathered this second season since they were set out twenty-five pears, worth each three cents on their premises. Of course they have placed there none but the most valuable and best-paying varieties. Until the trees get old enough to shade the ground too much for gardening, they devote the space between the rows to that purpose, making the crop thus prove pay all the expenses of the cultivation of the orchard as well as its own cultivation. This year they have the sugar beet in this ground, yielding nearly twenty tons per acre, worth at their door four dollars per ton for feeding cattle. In six or eight years from its first planting out they cannot fail to realize \$1,500 per annum from this noble little tree, with no other cultivation than should be bestowed on every one in the Union of the same size, since they yield annually more than 200 per cent. on its original cost at the prices at which they sell fine grafted pears. Nothing can better illustrate the advantages of thorough and scientific cultivation than the appearance of this thrifty pear orchard, already yielding beyond the expense of cultivation (in this its second year) quite the cost of the trees upon it. Really I know of no other so certain heavily-paying investment as such agriculture in the vicinity of a large city, the profits of which are within the reach of all, according to the means of each to buy the foundation for such an orchard.

Their green-house too (six in number, four 100 by 25 feet and two 50 by 25 feet) are capably arranged and managed. Thus, they use a new description of English glass, so "rough" as while not interfering to deprive the plants of desirable sunshine, they prevent the concentration of the sun's rays so as not to burn any thing the house is intended to protect. All owners of green-houses will rejoice that something has at length been discovered which will ensure their treasures against this dreaded local enemy.

They obtain eight hogheads of water in each twenty-four hours for use in these conservatories by means of three "rams," located a quarter of a mile distant and seventy feet below them, which, with a head or fall of but three and a half feet and a two-inch stream, force up the ample supply I name above. The whole cost of piping, rams, reservoirs, labor, &c. for this supply of water thus brought was but \$500; and the interest of which (here) is but \$28 per annum, or not one-fourth of what would be the annual cost of labor alone for pumping from such a well as is usually used for similar green-houses. How capital an illustration of the advantages of the application of science, improved machinery, &c. in agriculture is embraced in the result of this expenditure of the small sum mentioned above to this end! In these green-houses they rear their exotic plants and grapes which must be cultivated under glass. Some of their varieties of the late winter bear fruit abundantly, for which they paid \$2 per lb., but sales of which must net them enough to pay the expense of their whole grape, embracing the thousands of stocks they prepare for shipment to order. They apparently pay great attention to this branch of their business, seeking by all possible expedients to improve the foreign as well as the native varieties, and to ensure that none shall leave their establishment which may fail to rebound to their credit if properly cared for by the purchaser.

I believe this house is the only one in the Union which has devoted a heavy capital and long-continued efforts to the work of domesticating and preparing for sale a large variety of foreign plants and ornamental trees, which they cultivate with quite as much care as they bestow on fruit trees. From one end of their grounds to the other, however, every thing bears the mark of abundant labor in the right season; their Austrian pines (a new and fine evergreen) showing as much attention on the part of their workmen as their Hamburg and other rare and most valuable grape stocks. In conclusion, I have but to remark that as a gentleman can visit their establishment without being compelled to realize that the spirit of improvement is just now as ripe in the business of agriculture as in any trade, manufacture, or science practiced in the United States.

W. D. W.

STATISTICS OF THE LATE CENSUS, PREPARED AT THE CENSUS BUREAU.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT—SEVENTH CENSUS, 1850.

COUNTIES.	Dwellings.	Families.	White Males.	White Females.	Colored Males.	Colored Females.	Total.	Deaths.	Farms.	Manufacturing establishments.
Fairfield	10,817	12,114	28,202	30,168	688	717	59,776	904	3,156	482
Hartford	11,318	13,284	33,906	34,850	688	622	69,776	1,232	3,850	734
Litchfield	8,721	9,247	22,298	21,971	520	462	44,253	569	3,621	487
Middlesex	5,989	6,080	15,077	15,320	142	141	30,580	473	2,018	303
New Haven	10,204	12,411	30,177	30,653	630	740	62,126	991	2,794	821
New London	8,836	10,079	25,374	24,954	808	685	51,821	903	2,619	765
Tolland	3,741	4,081	9,887	10,059	75	70	20,091	263	1,943	241
Windham	5,494	6,152	15,083	15,429	267	300	31,079	446	2,445	380
Total	64,018	73,448	180,001	183,304	3,749	3,737	370,791	5,781	22,445	3,913

RECAPITULATION.	
Dwellings in the State	64,018
Families in the State	73,448
White Males	180,001
White Females	183,304
Colored Males	3,749
Colored Females	3,737
Total population	370,791

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND—SEVENTH CENSUS, 1850.

COUNTIES.	Dwellings.	Families.	White Males.	White Females.	Colored Males.	Colored Females.	Total free population.	Deaths.	Farms.	Manufacturing establishments.
Bristol	1,167	1,586	4,077	4,113	179	145	8,514	163	200	87
Kent	2,625	3,909	7,217	7,604	111	135	15,068	231	688	99
Newport	2,938	3,589	9,386	9,955	311	325	20,007	327	1,087	68
Providence	12,760	16,959	41,382	42,914	808	980	85,084	1,355	2,162	804
Washington	2,891	3,179	7,314	7,997	252	267	16,430	265	1,308	95
Total	22,379	28,216	70,417	73,583	1,660	1,884	147,544	2,241	5,385	1,144

RECAPITULATION.	
Dwellings in the State	22,379
Families in the State	28,216
White Males	70,417
White Females	73,583
Colored Males	1,660
Colored Females	1,884
Total population	147,544

STATE OF GEORGIA—SEVENTH CENSUS, 1850.

COUNTIES.	Dwellings.	Families.	White males.	White females.	Colored males.	Colored females.	Total free population.	Slaves.	Deaths.	Farms.
Appling.....	410	410	1,271	1,250	17	7	2,545	404	27	313
Baker.....	755	755	2,311	2,044	0	0	4,355	3,765	126	444
Baldwin.....	647	647	1,885	1,637	19	6	3,546	4,602	77	240
Bibb.....	1,234	1,280	3,619	3,390	20	33	7,062	5,637	177	308
Bryan.....	212	212	604	560	10	5	1,179	2,445	63	209
Burke.....	477	487	1,435	1,405	0	0	2,840	1,460	28	412
Butts.....	1,017	1,017	2,757	2,359	80	72	5,208	10,832	326	712
Butt.....	642	642	1,888	1,792	2	1	3,683	2,805	55	391
Camden.....	400	400	1,028	1,041	3	1	2,073	4,246	61	235
Campbell.....	920	920	2,893	2,825	3	4	5,725	1,507	63	694